

**From:** David Prosper  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 2:09pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I wish to add my voice to the growing number of people concerned with this case. I for one feel that Microsoft has committed many illegal actions in the past and it continues to do so to this day. With the release of Windows XP Microsoft has demonstrated that the findings of fact in now way mean anything to them, and they continue to follow their tried-and-true predatory business practices. Another, even greater concern lies in the privacy-or lack of it-of their customers with their integration of Passport services directly into the OS. One student who recently purchased a Windows XP laptop said to me, "They're forcing me to get one of these Passports." The incessant reminders and nags on the desktop had driven him to point of relenting and signing up for a service that he neither wanted or needed. Is this good business?

At work I use Windows NT, but at home I use BeOS, an operating system produced by a company that no longer exists. Be Inc. was a victim of Microsoft's "Bootloader" restriction on OEMs. Companies such as Hitachi and Compaq were intersted in installing BeOS along with Windows in a dual-boot configuration, and such pre-installation would have had the potential to greatly expand the BeOS user base. However, after Microsoft heard of this they dispatched their legal team to each vendor that was going to offer the BeOS, and subsequently no vendor offered the BeOS (with the exception of Hitachi, who installed the BeOS but were obligated to not have a boot menu with a choice of the two operating systems, and who were fearful of even telling their customers that there was an alternative OS on their computers. Most of the customers booted into Windows without ever knowing there was an alternative). As a consequence Be Inc. bled money throughout the 90's and vainly tried to refocus their efforts in the last year on Internet Appliances before being bought out by Palm Inc..

Microsoft is an arrogant and dangerous force not only in this country but around the world. Their predatory business practices must be checked for the good of the computer industry, the economy, and society as a whole. This cannot be achived with a mere slap on the wrist but with a settlement or judgement that has real teeth. The settlement proposed by the nine states refusing to go with the original settlement looks very interesting...

Sincerely,  
David Prosper  
Victim of Microsoft

